Review of Persons with Disabilities

3672. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participaton) Act is being reviewed;

(b) if so, whether any steps are being taken to revamp the law so as to make it an instrument in the hands of disabled persons to access technology and knowledge freely for their benefit;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT(SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The process for consultation with stakeholders for amendment to the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 has been completed. The suggestions made are being examined further.

Atrocities on dalits

3673. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that atrocities against dalits have increased in the recent years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to curb the atrocities against this oppressed section of the society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT(SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The offences of atrocities registered under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 was 31, 387 in the year 2005 and 32,407 in the year 2006.

(b) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has been addressing the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to implement provisions of the Act in letter and spirit. Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, due Central assistance is also provided to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations mainly for strengthening of the enforcement and judicial machinery, inter-caste marriages, awareness generation and relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons.

A Committee under the Chairpersonship of the Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment has also been constituted for effective coordination to devise ways and means to curb offenses of untouchability and atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and effiective implementation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955 and the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. The Committee has already held four meetings at Delhi on 18.09.2006, at Jaipur on 15.01.2007 at Mumbai on 11.08.2007 and at Chandigarh on 14.03.2008.